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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT**5 DECEMBER 2017**

(U) CALIFORNIA**(U) Menlo Park – Tech Companies Identify and Remove 40,000 Terrorist Videos and Images**

(U) Facebook, Google's YouTube, Microsoft, and Twitter—part of the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism—revealed in a joint blog post yesterday they have added the digital signatures of 40,000 terrorist videos and images to a shared database. Under the initiative, content removed for violating policies around terrorism is logged in the shared database. If the same content is posted to a participating social network, the content is automatically flagged. As a result, terrorist groups have increasingly shifted their propaganda and recruiting efforts to newer, smaller social media platforms.

SOURCE: 4 December 2017, [Bloomberg News](#)

(U) Santa Monica – Driver Faces Attempted Murder Charge in Crash into Santa Monica Pier Restaurant

(U) A 22-year-old man intentionally rammed his vehicle into a restaurant on Santa Monica Pier—where vehicles are not allowed—early yesterday morning, reportedly following an altercation with construction workers. The vehicle also damaged an old boat serving as a barricade. According to police, the driver had to maneuver around steel barriers to get onto the pier, and then chased the workers with his car until he struck one of them. Police say the driver will face DUI and attempted murder charges.

SOURCE: 4 December 2017, [CBS News](#)

(U) NATIONAL**(U) Alabama – Man Traveling from California Arrested on Drug Trafficking Charges**

(U) Baldwin County – Baldwin County Sheriff's Deputies conducted a traffic stop on a California-plated SUV on I-10 near mile marker 57 on 2 December, resulting in the seizure of 64 pounds of high-grade marijuana. The drugs were concealed in vacuum sealed bags, covered with coffee beans, and placed inside one duffle bag and several pelican cases. Investigators interviewed the suspect, who claimed he was paid \$2,000 to transport the material from California to an unknown location in Miami, and did not know about the contents of the cases.

SOURCE: 4 December 2017, [Fox 10 WALA](#)

(U) District of Columbia – New Cyber Unit Filed its First Charges over an ICO Scam

(U) Washington – A new division of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) dedicated to so-called "initial coin offerings" (ICOs) filed its first charges on 1 December, targeting a scam that reportedly raised \$15 million from thousands of investors by selling digital tokens known as "PlexCoins" as part of a purported plan "to increase access to cryptocurrency services" across the world. The agency's new Cyber Unit, which was created in September, appears to be the latest sign the SEC intends to ramp up enforcement against suspect ICOs.

SOURCE: 4 December 2017, [Fortune](#)

(U) Florida – Man in Custody after Investigation into Plan for Mass Shooting

(U) Jacksonville – Local, state, and federal authorities announced yesterday they thwarted a mass shooting at a Jacksonville mosque and arrested a 69-year-old Filipino immigrant who they say had

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obtained a rifle silencer from an undercover officer in the parking lot of a local sporting goods store. The investigation began when the Sheriff's Office received a tip from a citizen that the suspect "expressed a hatred for Muslims and made a specific threat to 'shoot up' a mosque." The suspect told the officer he had five guns at his disposal, including an AR-15 that could be converted to an AR-47.

SOURCE: 4 December 2017, [Florida Times-Union](#)

(U) Missouri – Man Accused of Assaulting FBI Agent Investigating Threats to Jewish Sites

(U) Urich – A 25-year-old western Missouri man was charged last week with assaulting a federal officer with a shovel. FBI agents allege they went to the man's home in Urich on 30 November to serve a search warrant when the assault occurred. The agents were investigating bomb and shooting threats made against a Jewish community center and synagogue in Overland Park, a synagogue in Kansas City, and a synagogue in Washington D.C.

SOURCE: 4 December 2017, [Associated Press](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL**(U) China – Cyberattack Temporarily Hits Bitcoin Exchange Bitfinex**

(U) Hong Kong – One of the world's largest digital currency exchanges, Hong Kong-based Bitfinex, reported a temporary outage due to a distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) cyberattack yesterday, temporarily paralyzing the system with excess information. Within an hour, Bitfinex tweeted that operations were returning to normal. Bitfinex suspended trading in August 2016 after a hack resulted in the theft of nearly 120,000 bitcoins.

SOURCE: 4 December 2017, [CNBC News](#)

(U) Germany – Alleged Blackmail Plot Sparks Christmas Market Bomb Scare

(U) Potsdam – A suspicious package containing nails that led to a bomb scare and evacuation at a popular Christmas market in downtown Potsdam was part of a blackmailing plot against a delivery company, German authorities said on 3 December. The package was delivered on 1 December to a pharmacy on the same street as the Christmas market and was later destroyed in a controlled explosion. Along with the device, the package held a letter that directed investigators to an online message outlining a blackmail plot. Further attempts to extort money from other companies or private individuals in this manner are likely, according to authorities.

SOURCE: 4 December 2017, [CBS News](#)

(U) United Kingdom – Police Arrest 188 People for Online Child Sex Abuse

(U) London – Officers arrested 188 people in a single week over allegations of online child sex abuse and stated that livestreaming platforms are becoming the platform of choice for sex offenders. Around 65 of the cases were related to exceptionally serious offences, according to the National Crime Agency (NCA), including many which saw child abuse livestreamed over the internet to an audience. The NCA released a new website called "Thinkuknow" with advice aimed at children and parents to help them recognize and disrupt child sex offenders online.

SOURCE: 4 December 2017, [Business Insider](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER**(U) California – Agents Stop Attempt to Smuggle 15 People near San Diego Coast**

(U) San Diego – US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Air and Marine Interdiction agents on 1 December stopped an attempt to smuggle 15 people—including a child and pregnant woman—into the United States via boat off the San Diego coast. The Coast Guard Cutter Barracuda crew helped off-board

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the 15 people and take them to a dock in San Diego where US Border Patrol agents escorted them to the San Ysidro Port-of-Entry. The suspected driver of the boat will face federal charges related to human smuggling.

SOURCE: 4 December 2017, [Fox 5 San Diego](#)

(U) Texas – Mexican National Admits Importing Meth

(U) Laredo – A Mexican national pleaded guilty to conspiracy for his role in importing meth into the United States, authorities announced yesterday. The 34-year-old man arrived at the Lincoln-Juarez Bridge Port-of-Entry in Laredo on 8 October driving a Chevrolet Cruze, claiming to be driving to Houston to visit family. However, agents discovered 20.48 kilograms of methamphetamine—with an estimated street price of \$143,360—within the rocker panels of his vehicle. The man initially claimed to have no knowledge of the drugs, but later told agents he thought he knew who may have put the drugs in the car.

SOURCE: 4 December 2017, [Laredo Morning Times](#)

(U) Texas – Border Patrol Seized Drugs Worth \$1.3 Million

(U) Laredo – US Customs and Border Protection officers at the Laredo Port-of-Entry seized a significant amount of marijuana and cocaine with an estimated street value of more than \$1.3 million in two separate busts over the course of a week. On 2 December, officers seized 20 packages containing 53 pounds of cocaine concealed within a passenger bus. On 29 November, officers seized 3,003 packages of marijuana that was concealed within frozen avocado pulp being hauled by a tractor-trailer.

SOURCE: 4 December 2017, [KSAT News](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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